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Present

# State Shirking Its Higher Education Responsibilities, Gideonse Says

New York State is "not carrying" its share of educational responsibilities

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ties and should "make up its mind" to say "Yes" to a State University, Dr. Harry D. Gideonse, president of Brooklyn College, declared last night in a forum broadcast over station WNYC.

He warned, however, that the cause for such an institution would be "hurt" if it were put on the grounds of racial discrimination. The aim should be to provide more facilities for higher education, he declared.

Others who participated and expressed similar views were Dan Dodson, chairman of the Mayor's Committee on Unity, and Professor James M. O'Neill, chairman of the college's department of speech. Professor Louis A. Malloy served as moderator.

Dr. Gideonse declared that New York City redeemed the record of the State as a whole by educating

50,000 students at a time in its four public colleges, but he rapped what he called a "provincial attitude" governing admissions.

"We are very provincial about our institutions in the city. The narrowness of New York's laws requires that all students must be residents. No other public institutions in the country are as narrowly restricted as we are."

The Brooklyn educator said Mississippi, the poorest State in the nation, is spending four times as much for education—on the basis of per capita income compared to educational expenditures—as is New York State, the richest. Other States, he added, have to carry some of New York's burden.

The main difficulties regarding opportunities for higher education in the State are limited facilities and the inability of a great majority of high school graduates to pay college tuition fees, Dr. Gideonse said.

State-endowed scholarships are not the answer, he added, for "then the State would be pouring its money into what would be subsidies for private institutions. A healthy public system is the answer," he asserted.

"The strongest argument against a State university is its cost. But the State owes it to its young people to get them as fair a break as the young people in other States."

Professor O'Neill asserted New York ranked last among the 48 States in expenditures for higher education. He declared there should be a State university and that the guiding aim should be to make it academically the best possible rather than merely an answer to either minority or opportunity problems.

Mr. Dodson said the issue should be discussed on its educational merits alone. The bias issue, he asserted, should be settled before the Temporary Committee for a State University delivers its report. He expressed fear that a State university might become a "ghetto institution."

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